of the Tribal Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that these remote tribal areas in deep forests do not get the required items of foodgrains which leads the Naxalities to exploit the sentiments of these tribals; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to see that proper supply of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System is maintained in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Government of Maharashtra has reported that there are 80 Fair Price Shops in Sironcha and 105 in Aheri Talukas of Gadchiroli District.

(b) and (c) Maharashtra Government has reported that under Special Action Plan, new Fair Price Shops have been opened in remote and inaccessible areas. To ensure regular supply of foodgrains, the scheme of doorstep delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops has been introduced in these tribal areas. Financial assistance is also being given by the State Government to needy fair price shopkeepers under Nucleus Budget Scheme.

Consumer Tribunal Benches in the Cities of Maharashtra

5249. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of the benches of the State Consumer Tribunal/Forum of Maharashtra in the cities of Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad;

(b) whether Government consider that this would reduce the pendency of the cases;

(c) if so, by when this will be done; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to reduce the pendency of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) There is no provision for setting up of benches either of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) to (d) The Act empowers the State Governments to set up additional District Forum(s) if the State Government so desires, keeping in view increases in the workload in the District Forum.

Inclusion of new items in the list of Essential Commodities

5250. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest list of essential commodities, as on 1st February, 1994;

(b) whether consumer fora and organisations have been demanding to include many more items in the list of essential commodities;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to make such inclusion; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) List of 59 items of essential commodities as on 1st February, 1994 is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

STATEMENT

List of Commodities Declared essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, As on 1st February, 1994.

Declared under Clause (a) of Section 2 of the Act :

1. Cattle Fodder, including oilcackes and other concentrates.
2. Coal, including coke and other derivatives.
3. Component parts and accessories of automobiles.
4. Cotton and woollen textiles.
5. Drugs.
6. Foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils.
7. Iron and Steel, including manufactured products of Iron & Steel.
8. Paper, including newsprint, paperboard and straw board.
9. Petroleum and Petroleum products.
10. Raw Cotton, whether ginned or unginned and cotton seeds.
11. Raw jute.

Declared under sub-clause (xi) of clause (a) of Section 2 of the Act.

12. Jute textiles.
13. Fertilizers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed.
14. Non-ferrous metals.
15. Cement
16. Manufactures and semi-manufactures of non-ferrous metals.
17. Soap.
18. Cinema Carbon.
19. Textile Machinery :—
    - (i) Blow room machinery.
    - (ii) Carting engines
    - (iii) Draw frames.
    - (iv) Speed frames.
    - (v) Ring frames.
    - (vi) Winding machines.
    - (vii) Dobling machines.
    - (viii) Reeling machines.
    - (ix) Bundling machines.
    - (x) Power looms.
    - (xi) Bailing machines
    - (xii) Side frames of Power looms.
    - (xiii) Spare parts of power looms and ring frames.
    - (xiv) Woolcombing machinery.
    - (xv) Woollen :—
        - (i) rag washing machines.
        - (ii) rag tearing machines.
        - (iii) rag cutting machine and
        - (iv) garnoting machine.
    - (xvi) Warp knitting machines including Rashel knitting machines worked by power;
    - (xvii) embroidery machines, other than sewing type embroidery machines worked by power and used for decorating the textile fabrics with designs formed with any type of thread by the help of needles;
    - (xviii) lace making machines worked by power and used for production of fabrics of open mesh or net formed by crossing and intertwisting thread; and

(xix) machines worked by power and used for printing of cloth by means of engraved rollers or screens.

20. Textiles made from silk.

21. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic spun fibre.

22. Textiles made wholly or in part from cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn.

23. Matches.

24. Ferro-silicon.

25. Silico-manganese

26. Ferro-chrome

27. Ferro-molybdenum.

28. Ferro-tungsten.

29. Ferro-manganese.

30. Ferro-vanadium

31. Ferro-phosphorus

32. Ferro-titandium

33. Ferrous scrap/containing more than
(i) 0.50 Per cent Nickel or
(ii) 0.20 Per cent Molybdenum, or
(iii) 1.00 Per cent Tungsten, or
(iv) 0.20 Per cent Vanadium, or
(v) 1.00 Per cent Cobalt.

34. General Lighting Service Lamps.

35. Dry cells for torches.

36. Hurricane Lanterns.

37. Household appliances such as electric irons, heater and the like.

38. Synthetic Rubber.

39. Polyvinyl chloride (P.V.C.) resins and compounds.

40. Coconut husk (raw or retted).

41. Tyres and tubes of buses and trucks.

42. Dry cells and Batteries for Transistor Radios.

43. Tyres and Tubes of Animal Drawn Vehicles.

44. Electric Cables and wires.

45. Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic staple fibre.

46. Crude Oil.

47. Yarn made wholly or in part from any of the following materials, namely :—

(i) Cotton, (ii) wool, (iii) man-made cellulosic spun fibre, (iv) man-made non-cellulosic spun fibre, (v) silk.

48. (i) Man-made cellulosic and Non-cellulosic filament yarn (ii) Nylon Tyre/Cord/Fabric.

49. Exercise Books.

50. Coir fibre extracted from coconut husks.

51. Insecticides, Fungicides, Weedicides and the like.

52. Tea.

53. Power Threshers.

54. (i) seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruit and vegetables, (ii) seeds of cattle fodder and (iii) jute seeds.

To be used for sowing or planting (including seedlings and tubers bulbs, rhizomes, roots, cuttings and all types of grants and other vegetatively propagated material of food-crops or cattle fodder).

55. Surgical Implaints.

56. Natural Gas.

57. Hydraulic Brake Fluid.

58. (i) Switches for domestic and similar purposes (ii) 2-AMP Switches, (iii) 3-Pin Plugs and Socket out lets.

59. Non-Pressure Kerosene Wick Stove.